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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

April 15, 2013

**VA Loma Linda Hosts Earth Day Event**

LOMA LINDA, Calif. – The VA Loma Linda Healthcare System is hosting an event in recognition of Earth Day April 19 at the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial VA Medical Center in Loma Linda, Calif.

The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the north side of the Medical Center near the main entrance. Visitors will also have a chance to see a few of the recent green renovations to the building and grounds and speak with exhibitors about environmentally behaviors. Exhibitors will be able to discuss recycling, solar power, public transit and a variety of other topics.

“This is an exciting time to hold an Earth Day event,” said Raymond Maldonado, facility Green Environmental Management System (GEMS) Coordinator. Work is wrapping up on our solar panel projects, and as of right now we are producing 42 percent of our own electricity with Solar Panels and a natural gas fuel cell. We have recently installed additional bike lockers and the bus stops on Benton Street are being upgraded.”

Since 1970, Earth Day events have been held worldwide to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

For more information, contact Raymond Maldonado, GEMS Coordinator, at (909) 825-7084 ext. 6136.

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The Jerry L. Pettis Memorial VA Medical Center is the centerpiece of the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System. Opened in 1977, it is located ½ mile from its major affiliate, Loma Linda University. The VA Loma Linda Healthcare System is one of the top 25 employers in the Inland Empire. With approximately 2,500 employees and more than 1,000 volunteers, it serves more than 67,000 Veterans who entrust their health care needs to VA for a wide variety of services through inpatient and outpatient care. In partnership with Loma Linda University Medical Center and Loma Linda University Healthcare, VA provides primary care and mental health at outpatient clinics located in Blythe, Corona, Palm Desert, Murrieta, Rancho Cucamonga and Victorville.